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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, the Hon. Minister said that if the near relatives were without any income, a pension was granted. Will the Government consider the case of such persons as are discarded by their sons or daughters who are earning members?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. If there are earning members, they are not considered. Then, Sir, I may add that a person will be deemed to be a destitute if the wife has attained the age of 55 years.

Metric weights

* 210 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that vegetable vendors and others engaged in petty trades in Kotwal Bazaar, Madras, still continue to use viss weights instead of kilogram weights; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce the use of kilogram weights?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) & (b) The Government have already taken steps by publicity, propaganda, persuasion and surprise inspections to enforce the use of metric weights. The enforcement staff has been seizing the old weights wherever found in use. As a result of these steps, it is reported that the transactions are now done by weighment with new metric weights.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Have any prosecutions been made in this connection ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The information is not with me now, Sir.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that kilogram weight is passed off as viss by vegetable vendors when they deal with illiterate people ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have not received any such complaints, Sir. If the hon. Member is aware of such practices, he might pass on the information to the Government and it will be looked into.

Sand dunes

* 211 Q.—SRI T. DORAIRAJ : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of wet lands and river-bed lands on the banks of the Cauveri in Srirangam firka affected by sand dunes during 1961 floods;

(b) whether any compensation was paid to those lands; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such damages to the river-bed lands in Srirangam firka?

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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) 173.92 acres.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Collector of Tiruchirappalli.

(*c*) Necessary preventive measures have been taken by the Public Works Department.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Sir, the time taken for judging the payment of compensation is too long. They have been delaying it for long. The floods took place in 1961 and now we are in November 1962. If we come to next year, then the Government might say ' You are all late '.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Yes, Sir, there has been some delay in this, but I may say that by this time they would have been settled. The answer to the question was prepared some two or three months ago. By now they must have been looked into.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Will it be expedited?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : We will look into it.

New Cauveri bridge

* 212 *Q*.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the work of construction of the new Cauveri bridge at Tiruchirappalli was taken up ; and

(*b*) whether there is any stoppage of work and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) The new Cauveri bridge work at Tiruchirappalli was started in March 1957. It is now in good progress and is expected to be completed by July 1963.

(*b*) There has been no stoppage of work.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDAM : Sir, is it intended for heavy vehicular traffic or regular bus services also?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Sir, the regular bus traffic will be included in the heavy vehicular traffic. It is available for both.

திரு. எம். சுப்பையா செட்டியார் : அரசாங்கம், கண்ட்ராக்டர்களை நீக்கிவிட்டு தங்களுடைய சிப்பந்திகளைக் கொண்டு இப்போது வேலை செய்துவருகிறார்களா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமையா : இப்போது அரசாங்கம் அந்த வேலையை நடத்துகிறது.

திரு. எம். சுப்பையா செட்டியார் : இதனால் எவ்வளவு கூடுதல் செலவு வரும் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறார்கள் ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமையா : அந்த விபரம் இப்போது என்னிடம் இல்லை.